(b) whether the agreement relating to pay of employees and report of Mohan Committee have been implemented;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) The Staff regulations and standing orders governing the service conditions of the employees of MFIL prior to disinvestment continue to exist after disinvestment.

(b) to (d) As per the Government directions/guidelines issued on the recommendations of Mohan Committee, the revised pay scales and any agreement in this regard could not have been adopted because MFIL incurred loss from 1998-99 onwards. The downslide in MFIL's performance also continued at faster pace and hence, generation of additional resources to meet liabilities for revised scales was not possible, which was a pre-requisite before considering adoption of the revised pay scales.

Consequent upon disinvestment of Government equity with transfer of 74% shares as well as management control to the strategic partner (M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.) w.e.f. 1st February 2000, the matter is now under the consideration of new management who have already allowed substantial interim relief to the employees.

Appropriate technology to increase production

1282. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh step to help farmers in the country to adopt appropriate technology to increase production; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fresh steps taken include the following:

(i) New institutional arrangements are being pilot tested under Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component of the World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project in six States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Punjab and Orissa covering four districts in each. Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have been established under the project at the district level representing the stakeholders responsible for technology generation and dissemination with focus on strategic planning participatory approach, integrated extension delivery and application of information technology.

(ii) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted Food Security Project has been initiated in selected States with the involvement of women farmers. Also a Central Sector Scheme—"Women in Agriculture" has been extended to five North-Eastern States namely Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura with an initiative for strengthening extension services for women farmers.

(iii) While involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) is being expanded by bringing more NGOs in its fold, a new initiative has also been taken to assist Farmers' Organisations for technology dissemination purpose.

(iv) Extension through vernacular print media is being supported to supplement extension efforts together with organisation of Kisan Melas through State Agricultural Universities. Electronic media is being involved pro-actively in dissemination of farm information.

(v) The schemes on Human Resource Development in Horticulture and integrated development of horticulture in backward and tribal areas are initiated in current financial year.

(vi) The Scheme—National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas has been restructured in conformity with the common approach/principles with greater emphasis on community participation, decentralization and use of location specific technologies.

(vii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched an innovative Programme called Institution Village Linkage Programme for technology assessment and refinement, which is being implemented at 70 Centres covering State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes. As many

as 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres have been initiated at SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window delivery system for technology products, services and information to the farmers and other end users. Besides existing 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the ICAR has sanctioned strengthening 53 Zonal Agricultural Research stations to take up additional functions of KVKs.

Specialists view on Nuclear Tests

1283. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Nuclear Weapon specialists are of the view that more nuclear tests would be necessary to develop the credibility of our nuclear deterrent; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for Government's over enthusiasm to sign the CTBT when the main Nuclear Power themselves are not ready for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have declared a voluntary moratorium on further nuclear explosive tests. The five tests conducted in May 1998 have provided an adequate scientific data base for designing the types of weapons needed for a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.

(b) Government's position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. While Government closely monitors all international developments on the CTBT, Government's position on the treaty continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interests and its desire to develop a national consensus on this issue.

Work on Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

1284. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought permission to begin work on the third and fourth units of the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant;